

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 05002 290250Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
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O 290215Z MAY 77
FM USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
TO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 05002

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,IR,US
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI

1. DURING SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ZAHEDI ON ANOTHER
SUBJECT SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 28, ZAHEDI ASKED WHAT THE
SECRETARY COULD TELL HIM ABOUT PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT.
THE SECRETARY SAID THE TALKS HAD NOT BROUGHT OUT
ANYTHING NEW IN THE SAUDI POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM. THE SAUDIS HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE
IMPLICATIONS OF THE LIKUD VICTORY IN ISRAEL FOR THE
PEACE PROCESS, AND WE HAD ASSURED THEM THAT WE
REMAINED COMMITTED TO DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO
ACHIEVE A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO OIL, THE SECRETARY SAID, PRINCE
FAHD HAD MADE CLEAR THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT LINK
OIL PRICES TO THE ACHEIVEMENT OF PROGRESS OR LACK OF
IT ON A PEACE SETTLEMENT. FAHD HAD SAID HE WAS
CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF AN OIL PRICE INCREASE
ON POOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME HE
HAD MADE CLEAR THAT, IF SAUDI ARABIA FOUND ITSELF

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ALONE, HE COULD NOT SAY THEY WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH
SOME INCREASE IN THE FUTURE.

3. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT FAHD HAD ALSO EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA,
AND WE HAD EXPLAINED WHAT WE WERE DOING THERE. WE
HAD MENTIONED TO THE SAUDIS THE IDEA OF A CONSORTIUM OF
WESTERN COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR SOMALIA, AND THE

SAUDIS HAD ENCOURAGED THIS IDEA. THEY HAD SAID THEIR ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA, AND ALSO TO SUDAN, WOULD FOCUS ON ECONOMIC AID. FAHD HAD ALSO SPOKEN HIGHLY OF SAUDI RELATIONS WITH IRAN.

4. THE SECRETARY SAID HE ALSO WANTED TO GIVE ZAHEDI OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE RECENT REMOVAL OF PODGORNYY FROM THE SOVIET POLITBORO. SINCE THE LAST SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS, PODGORNYY HAD BEEN IN TROUBLE AT BOTH THE SENIOR AND MIDDLE LEVELS OF THE SOVIET HIERARCHY FOR HIS NEGATIVE POSITION TOWARD A NUMBER OF ISSUES FAVORED BY THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. HE HAD ALSO BEEN CRITICIZED THAT HIS AFRICAN TRIP HAD NOT BEEN A SUCCESS. THIS HAD ALL COME TO A HEAD IN THE DECISION TO REMOVE HIM. OUR ASSESSMENT WAS THAT HIS REMOVAL DID NOT REFLECT MAJOR POLICY CHANGES OR A RESHAPING OF THE POLITBORO.

5. FINALLY, THE SECRETARY SAID WE APPRECIATE THE SHAH'S HELPFULNESS WITH BHUTTO IN SETTING UP THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING MEETING IN PARIS WITH AZIZ AHMED. HE WOULD REPORT THE RESULTS TO ZAHEDI FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM PARIS. ZAHEDI SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED.
VANCE

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NNN

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